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8-13-1973

# Cambodia

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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*Press Release*

August 13, 1973

STATEMENT OF SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD (D., MONTANA)

The contents of a cable to me from Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia have recently been reported in the press. This communication sets forth Prince Sihanouk's proposals for a termination of the warfare in his devastated country. It seems to me that these proposals provide a basis for ending the conflict among the Cambodians themselves and for the reconstitution of their government free, as it should be, from all outside intervention.

Under our system of government, official reaction to proposals of this kind and responsibility for dealing with them rests with the Executive Branch in the person of the President or his designees. Speaking as Majority Leader of the U. S. Senate, in light of the Congressional position which has been legally adopted in opposition to U. S. military involvement in Cambodia, I would hope that these proposals of Prince Sihanouk would receive the urgent attention of the President of the United States and that he would do all in his power to promote the achievement of a durable peace in Cambodia.



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Translation (French)

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE SERVICE  
[Office of Majority Leader]

Senator Michael J. Mansfield  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

Pyongyang, 11 p.m.  
Friday, August 10, 1973

### U r g e n t

Dear Sir:

I would like to convey to you that I have followed, with greatest interest, intense emotion and deep gratitude, your noble and generous action on behalf of the K H M E R people, who do not merit these terrible misfortunes and unspeakable sufferings inflicted upon them by the American air raids, whose intensity and killingspower has been increasing continously during the past five months.

In principle, these raids should cease on August 15th, but President Nixon - as I know him - will not fail to find means to extend the misfortunes and sufferings, without precedent, of the K H M E R people long after August 15th, 1973.

President Nixon intends to prevent by force the National KHMER Resistance of which I am the Chief - to liberate Phnompeh. However, you will understand easily that the United Front of the Cambodian National Liberation cannot in any way desist from liberating our fatherland a hundred percent.



We, the Cambodian patriots, do not fight for the Communist cause. Moreover, Nixon's military intervention in Cambodia, in order to bar, so to say, the road against Communism, is a poor pretext, since President Nixon decided to achieve, henceforth, the best terms for the United States with the two Communist [Powers], namely the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union.

We, the Khmer patriots, fight only to restore the independence and national neutrality of our country. In addition, we are fighting at present absolutely alone; that is, without any aid from our Vietcong and North-Vietnamese friends, which makes the American military intervention against us absolutely unjustifiable.

Finally, the United National Front and the Royal Government of National Union solemnly affirm to you, through my voice, that they desire sincerely to achieve peace with honor as soon as possible with the United States, which President Nixon insisted that he was desirous of reaching.

I would like to repeat that the only conditions for the complete realization of this peace with honor are:

firstly, complete and irreversible suspension of the air raids and of every other direct and indirect military intervention by the United States of America in Cambodia;

secondly, complete and irreversible suspension of all the military aid to the so-called K H M E R Republic.



If these two conditions are fulfilled by the United States Government, the Cambodia of the United Front of National Liberation, of the Royal Government of the National Union and of the Armed People's Forces of the National Liberation is ready to forget the painful past and to establish diplomatic relations with the United States of America.

As far as the fate of the Cambodians who have collaborated with the United States imperialism, The Royal Government of the National Union, under the care of the United Front of National Liberation, will allow the Government of Washington to evacuate, from Cambodia, all the chief collaborators, to whom the United States would offer her hospitality. The collaborators of the second rank will be allowed to benefit from the general amnesty if they make an honorable reparation in favor of the United Front of National Liberation and of the Royal Government of the National Union.

Thus everything will return to order. However, if President Nixon does not accept our very fair, and even friendly proposals, the United Front of the National Liberation, the Royal Government of the National Union and the Armed People's Forces of the National Liberation will be obliged to continue their armed resistance unto the end; even if it should be necessary [to continue their battle for] three, ten or even twenty years, because national independence cannot be an object of bargaining or of any compromise whatsoever. These are the essential points of the Cambodian problem.



I would like to solemnly repeat that the Royal Government of the National Liberation Union, which is the sole legal Government of an independent and non-aligned Cambodia, will never accept negotiations with the people of Phnompeh if they are pro-imperialist, pro-French, pro-Soviet, pro-Japanese or pro-xyz that is if they call themselves the third force.

In short, the United States now has a perfect chance to establish peace with honor with us and to maintain an Embassy in Phnompeh after the Royal Government of the National Union has been established there, on condition that they accept our fair proposals.

However, I doubt that President Nixon will accept them. Consequently, I ask the Senate and the House of the American People to act in such a way that the United States Government, finally leaves the Cambodians to settle their affairs alone without foreign interference.

Please convey my highest esteem to Mrs. Mansfield and I ask you, Sir, to accept my everlasting gratitude and my highest consideration,

Sincerely yours

Norodom Sihanouk  
Chief of State &  
President of the [Liberation] Front

Translated by Casimir Cyril Petraitis  
amc